What is claimed is:

1. A rivet holder comprising:

a unitary plate; and

a plurality of apertures of the unitary plate configured to support rivets depending from the plate.

2. The rivet holder of claim 1 wherein the plate has a predetermined thickness sized to receive preformed heads of the rivets.

3. The rivet holder of claim 1 wherein the plate has integral drive heads overlying the apertures.

4. The rivet holder of claim 3 wherein the plate includes frangible portions integrally connected to the drive heads about the apertures.

5. The rivet holder of claim 3 wherein the drive heads have substantially aligned top surfaces that cooperate to allow for compact stacking with drive head top surfaces from one rivet holder securely engaged against drive head top surfaces from another rivet holder.

6. The rivet holder of claim 1 wherein the plate includes portions above and generally below heads of the rivets in the apertures to capture the heads therein.

7. The rivet holder of claim 6 wherein the plate portions below the rivet heads comprise webs about each aperture spaced by a radially enlarged opening between adjacent webs.

8. The rivet holder of claim 1 wherein the unitary plate includes a plurality of unitary plates interconnected in a strip by frangible bridges between adjacent plates.

9. A rivet collating system comprising:

a plurality of rivets each including an enlarged, preformed head at one end thereof;

a plate body forming a plurality of apertures configured for retaining the rivet heads therein; and

a drive head associated with each of the plate apertures and including at least one frangible portion for releasably connecting the drive head with the plate body to allow the drive heads to be driven relative to the plate body to push the rivet heads out from the apertures.

10. The rivet collating system of claim 9 including a guide block having guide bores for the rivets with the plate apertures aligned with the guide bores and the driven drive heads causing the rivet heads to enter the guide bores.

11. The rivet collating system of claim 10 wherein the guide block is sized to fit over a plurality of conveyor belt fasteners, and the plate body includes a plurality of plate bodies connected in a strip for being associated with each belt fastener.

12. The rivet collating system of claim 9 wherein the plate body comprises a unitary body through which the apertures are formed.

13. The rivet collating system of claim 9 wherein the plate body includes circumferentially spaced webs about each aperture underlying each rivet head to retain the head in the aperture.

14. The rivet collating system of claim 13 wherein the webs include an opening between adjacent webs that extends beyond the aperture.

15. The rivet collating system of claim 13 wherein the plate frangible portions and the plate webs are vertically offset from each other.

16. The rivet collating system of claim 13 wherein the plate frangible portions engage on top of the rivet heads in the aperture and the webs engage under the rivet heads to capture the rivet heads in the aperture.

17. The rivet collating system of claim 13 wherein the plate body includes a predetermined thickness, and the plate frangible portions and the plate webs are substantially within the plate body thickness.

18. The rivet collating system of claim 9 wherein the plate includes a substantially flat upper surface and the drive heads project upwardly above the plate upper surface for being engaged by a driver tool.

19. The rivet collating system of claim 18 wherein the rivet heads include a top surface that does not project above the plate top surface.

20. The rivet collating system of claim 9 wherein the drive heads each include an upper portion sized in interference with the associated aperture to keep the drive head from passing therethrough.

21. The rivet collating system of claim 20 wherein the drive head includes a cylindrical body extending up from the plate over the associated aperture, and the upper portion of the drive head comprises a flange at a free end of the cylindrical body and enlarged relative thereto.

22. The rivet collating system of claim 9 wherein the rivets each include a pilot nail detachably connected thereto.

23. The rivet collating system of claim 22 including a guide block having guide bores for receiving the rivets and nails, and a guide member on the pilot nail or rivet to keep the rivets aligned in the guide bores for being driven through belt fastener apertures.

24. The rivet collating system of claim 9 wherein the plate is of a plastic material that is molded with the rivets in place to capture the preformed heads in the apertures thereof.

25. A method of forming a holder for rivets, the method comprising:
placing the rivets in a mold for forming the rivet holder;
forming a body of plastic material of the rivet holder in the mold; and
releasably capturing heads of the rivets by plastic material of the body engaged with the rivet heads.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein forming a body includes forming drive heads of the body releasably connected to a plate portion of the body and in overlying relation to the rivet heads.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein the rivet holder body is formed as a unitary plate-type body.